

Press Release

National Special Exhibition

“Luther and the Germans” 2017 at Wartburg Castle

From May 4 to November 5, 2017 Wartburg Castle in Eisenach will be the venue of the National Special Exhibition “Luther and the Germans” to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Germany. Funded by the German Federal Government and the Free State of Thuringia, the ambitious exhibition project shines a light on the changing relationship between Martin Luther the Reformer and “his” Germans – from the posting of his Ninety-Five Theses in 1517 to the 21st century.

With 350,000 visitors annually, Wartburg Castle in Eisenach is the most frequented Luther site in the world. Its thick walls protected Martin Luther the Reformer for just under a year after his heresy hearings at the Diet of Worms (1521). Ostracized and excommunicated, it was here that he began translating the New Testament into German. In doing so, he laid foundation for a standardized written German language. The Lutherstube – the Reformer’s authentic living and working quarters during his stay at the castle – has been a destination for countless pilgrims from around the world for centuries.

Fascinating aspects of a complex national history of reception

With this in mind, what better venue than Wartburg Castle for the National Special Exhibition “Luther and the Germans”? The presentation reveals Martin Luther the Reformer as a nationally symbolic personality in Germany and figure for projection, showing how every era has formed its own unique picture of Luther. Relevant and incisive Reformation topics will be introduced in the context of 500 years of German history, creating a bridge between Luther’s point of view and the present. To accomplish this, the exhibition explores three major themes: While the first part examines Luther site Wartburg as a locus of memory within Germany, the second points out the cultural and intellectual consequences of Luther’s Protestant doctrine. The third part of the exhibition explores the ways in which the Reformation has been exploited as a political tool.

A striking display of objects in an impressive atmosphere

Some 300 outstanding exhibits – paintings, print works, sculptures, graphic art and everyday items – will be displayed on an area of over 1,000 square meters (11,000 square feet). Objects on view include both holdings from the Wartburg Foundation Collection and items on loan from other German and international collections. With its historic rooms, Wartburg itself also becomes part of the exhibition. The price of admission includes an audio guide for children and adults, along with various general and themed tours and educational opportunities suited to visitors' diverse interests and needs. An accompanying publication (available at the exhibition opening) offers a chance to expand and enrich your knowledge about the various topics addressed in the exhibition. The castle grounds also include historical replicas just waiting to be explored.

Three National Special Exhibitions "Luther and the Germans" is one of three large, government-sponsored exhibition projects commemorating 500 years since the Reformation in 2017. Together with the two partner exhibitions, "The Luther Effect. Protestantism – 500 Years in the World" (Deutsches Historisches Museum at the Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, April 12 – November 5, 2017) and "Luther! 95 Treasures – 95 People" (Luther Memorials Foundation in Saxony-Anhalt, Lutherhaus/Augusteum, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, May 13 – November 5, 2017), it is devoted to the topic of "Reformation" in all its many facets.

Contact

Wartburg-Stiftung Eisenach
Andreas Volkert
Head of Public Relations and Events
Telephone +49 (0)3691 / 250 233
volkert@wartburg.de

Dr. Christian Heger
Public Relations/Publications
Nationale Sonderausstellung LUTHER 2017
Telephone +49 (0)3691 / 250 -273
heger@wartburg.de

www.3xhammer.de

